

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of publishing a communication state of a terminal connected to an access network that detects a communication state of said terminal, including:

notifying said communication state of said terminal as a current communication state from said access network to a communication state publishing gateway connected to said access network,

enquiring a database from said publishing gateway via a packet network to select a voluntary communication state previously decided by said terminal in said database as a function of an identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing gateway to said database and, if a voluntary communication state is associated with the identifier of the terminal, enquiring the database from said publishing gateway via said packet network to select an apparent communication state corresponding to said voluntary communication state in said database ~~as a function of an identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing gateway~~, and

responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state:

modifying said current communication state to said apparent communication state in said publishing gateway,

transforming said apparent communication state of said terminal into an instant messaging communication state in said publishing gateway, and

transferring said instant messaging communication state from said publishing gateway to an instant messaging server connected to said packet network.

2. (Cancelled)

3. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said voluntary communication state is selected by said terminal on a server connected to said packet network and then ~~stores~~stored in said database.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, including selecting a current action to be established in said access network of said terminal and associated with said current communication state in a database as a function of said identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing gateway in order for said current action to be commanded subsequently by said publishing gateway.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, including selecting a current action to be established in said access network of said terminal and associated with said current communication state in a database as a function of an identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing gateway in order for said current action to be commanded subsequently by said publishing gateway, selecting an action associated with said voluntary communication state, and modifying said current action to said action associated with said voluntary communication state.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said action associated with said voluntary communication state is selected by said terminal on a server connected to said packet network and then stores in said database.

7. (Currently Amended) A publishing gateway for publishing a communication state of a terminal connected to an access network that is adapted to detect a communication state of said terminal, said publishing gateway comprising:

an access interface connected to said access network for receiving a notification of said communication state of said terminal as a current communication state from said access network,

an enquiring unit for enquiring a database via a packet network to select a voluntary communication state previously decided by said terminal in said database as a function of an identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing gateway to said database and, if a voluntary communication state is associated with the identifier of the terminal, for enquiring the database from said publishing gateway via said packet network to select an apparent communication state corresponding to said voluntary communication state in said database, as a function of an identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing gateway, and

a communication state modifying unit arranged to modify said current communication state to said apparent communication state in said publishing gateway responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state,

a communication state management unit arranged to transform said apparent

communication state of said terminal into an instant messaging communication state, and

an instant messaging interface arranged to transfer said instant messaging communication state to an instant messaging server connected to said packet network.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said voluntary communication state is selected by a user of said terminal.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said voluntary communication state is defined independently of said detected communication state of said terminal.

11. (Previously Presented) A publishing gateway as claimed in claim 7, the communication state management unit arranged to transform said apparent communication state of said terminal into an instant messaging communication state responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state.

12. (Previously Presented) A publishing gateway as claimed in claim 7, the instant messaging interface arranged to transfer said instant messaging communication state to an instant messaging server connected to said packet network responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state.

13. (Currently Amended) An advising gateway for advising a communication state of a terminal connected to an access network that is adapted to detect a communication state of said terminal, said advising gateway comprising:

an access interface connected to said access network for receiving a notification of said communication state of said terminal as a current communication state from said access network,

an enquiring unit for enquiring a database via a packet network to select a voluntary communication state previously decided by said terminal in said database as a function of an identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing gateway to said database and, if a voluntary communication state is associated with the identifier of the terminal, for enquiring the database from said publishing gateway via said packet network to select an apparent communication state corresponding to said voluntary communication state in said database, as a function of an identifier of said terminal transmitted by said advising gateway, and

a communication state modifying unit arranged to modify, responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state, said current communication state to said apparently communication state in said advising gateway,

a communication state management unit arranged to transform, responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state, said apparent communication state of said terminal into an instant messaging communication state, and

an instant messaging interface arranged to transfer, responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state, said instant

messaging communication state to an instant messaging server connected to said packet network.